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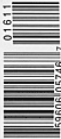
CLAREMONT • EATON • DELL

new *EXCALIBUR*



DIRECT EDITION

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FALLEN FRIEND

PART 1

BY CHRIS CLAREMONT
& SCOT EATON

CAPTAIN
BRITAIN

LONDON--

--ON A DAY THAT WILL
START MUCH LIKE ANY
OTHER FOR THE HEROES
OF EXCALIBUR.

LISTEN UP,
PEOPLE--

"THIS IS A
ROBBERY
AN' WE HAVE
HOSTAGES!"

SAGE

NOCTURNE

JUGGERNAUT

DAZZLER

PETE
WISDOM

JOHN DEILL INKER
GOTCOLDFEY A. CROSSLEY COLORIST
TOMI ORZICHOWSKI LETTERER
COVER BY SALVADOR LARROCA
AND DAVE MCCAIG
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LET'S
NOT.

SLAM!

ALL RIGHT,
LADS, THEY GOT THE
MESSAGE.

THEY BETTER
BELIEVE WE MEAN
BUSINESS.

NOW
LET'S GET
CRACKING,
AN' LOOT THIS
PLACE TO THE
BARE
WALLS!



HOW DUMB
ARE YOU GUYS,
ANYWAY...

--PULLIN' A
CAPER LIKE THIS
IN THE CITY
THAT'S HOME TO
EXCALIBUR?

YOU
CLOWNS
GOT NO
CLASS?

JUGGERNAUT
USED TO FOLLOW
YOUR LINE OF
WORK, GUYS.

MAKES
HIM KIND'A
CRANKY
WHEN IT
ISN'T DONE
WELL.

AND YOU
REALLY DON'T
WANT TO MAKE
JUGGERNAUT
CRANKY.

WE 'SPOSED
T' BE SCARED O' YOU
SUPER HEROES?

BLAM

IT'S YOU LOT SHOULD
BE SCARED O' THE LIKES
OF US!

AUGH!

JUGGERNAUT--
ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?!

I'VE
TAKEN
WORSE.

LOOKS LIKE
THESE LUGS ARE
PACKIN' SERIOUS
HARDWARE.

WE
BETTER
GET BACK
INSIDE,
CAP.

THE GIRLS
MAY NEED
OUR HELP!





ALISON BLAIR
CAN'T MATCH HER
TEAMMATE'S
PHENOMENAL
FIGHTING SKILL.

SHE HAS
OTHER
ASSETS.

SHE
CONTROLS
LIGHT.

SHE CAN
FLASH
BRIGHTER
THAN A
STAR...

OR
COALESCE
IT INTO A
FORM AS
STRONG
AS STEEL.

HER ADVERSARIES ARE
QUICK AS CAN BE...



...BUT TO DAZZLER
IT OFTEN SEEMS
AS IF THEY'RE
STANDING STILL.



SHE USED
TO BE
AFRAID
OF HER
POWER.



BUT THESE
DAYS, THE
MORE SHE
USES IT,
THE MORE
COMFORTABLE--
MORE RIGHT--
IT FEELS.



YOU
TOFFEE-HAIRED
FREAK-- YOU'RE
DEAD!

BRAKA
BRAKA

NOT
TODAY,
PAL.

YOUR
GUN'S
DONE.

YOU'RE
NEXT.

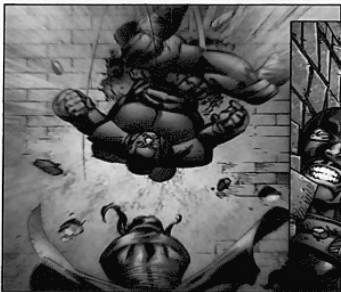
ZARK!
ARRRGH!

WHERE'S
THAT HANDY
LIGHT SHIELD,
NOW?



MEANWHILE--

--DOWN ON THE
UNDERGROUND
VAULT LEVEL--



I'D HAVE
PITCHED IN,
Y'KNOW,
PETAL--

--IF IT
LOOKED
LIKE YOU
NEEDED
HELP.



DOWNSIDE
OF THE
AFTERNOON,
THE BANK
WILL NEED A
NEW ROOF.

ON THE
OTHER
HAND,
THINGS
COULD
HAVE
BEEN
MUCH
WORSE.

WILL YOU
GUYS GIVE ME
A BREAK?!

I FEEL
FINE!

YOU WERE
DEAD,
ALISON.

AGAIN!

SO I GOT
BETTER.

JUST
ASK THE
DOC!

I'M SORRY,
CAPTAIN, BUT
ALL THE DATA
I HAVE AGREES
WITH ALISON.
SHE'S ALIVE,
AND WELL.

HOWEVER--CONSIDERING
THIS IS THE THIRD TIME THIS
HAS HAPPENED...

...I'D LIKE TO RUN A COMPLETE
SET OF EXAMS.

WHICH MEANS
AT LEAST A
NIGHT IN THE
ROYAL VICTORIA
HOSPITAL.

POLICE

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE MY
FRIEND.

ABSOLUTELY--
A FRIEND WHO
HOPES TO SEE YOU
LIVE A VERY LONG
LIFE.

ROYAL VICTORIA
HOSPITAL, THE
FOLLOWING DAY...



THIS IS
SO
WEIRD.

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

ALISON--

--DOC--

--SOMETHING'S--

TALIA!

--WRONG!

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?!

D'KNOW.
MY
HEAD--!

CRASH
CALL,
HOLLAND
FOUR. THIS
IS NO
DRILL.

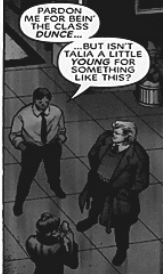
HOLLAND
FOUR--
HEY, ISN'T
THAT ALI'S
ROOM?!



I
DON'T
WANT
TO
DI*







PARDON
ME FOR BEIN'
THE CLASS
DUNCE...

...BUT ISN'T
TALIA A LITTLE
YOUNG FOR
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS?

A STROKE
INVOLVES A
BLOCKAGE OF
ONE OF THE BLOOD
VESSELS TO THE
BRAIN.

IT'S MORE
COMMON
WITH AGE, BUT
ACTUALLY IT
CAN OCCUR
ANY TIME.

THE FACT
SHE'S FROM
AN ALTERNATE
EARTH
SOMEWHAT
COMPLICATES
MATTERS.



CAN WE CONTACT
THE GROUP SHE
USED TO BELONG
TO, OR PERHAPS
HER HOME
DIMENSION?

TELL ME
HOW, SQUIRE,
AN' I'LL GET IT
DONE. OTHER-
WISE, WE'RE ON
OUR OWN.



I HATE FEELING
SO BLOODY
HELPLESS!

AFTER ALL
WE'VE BEEN
THROUGH, TO
LOSE ONE OF
OUR OWN
LIKE THIS!



HEY!

MAYBE
I'M OUTTA LINE
SAYIN' THIS, CAP,
BUT WE AIN'T
LOST ANYBODY
YET.



NOCTURNE'S
A FIGHTER!

SHE
AIN'T
GONNA
QUIT--

--AN'
SHE AIN'T
GONNA GET
BEAT?

"YOU GUYS
CAN COUNT
ON THAT!
WHATEVER IT
TAKES--"

"--NOCTURNE'S
GONNA FIND A
WAY TO WIN!"



HER NAME
IS TALIA
JOSEPHINE
WAGNER.

CODE-NAME,
NOCTURNE.

AND FROM THE
VERY BEGINNING,
SHE KNEW SHE
WAS GOING TO BE
A SUPER HERO.

CONSIDERING THAT
HER FATHER IS
KURT WAGNER,
NIGHTCRAWLER OF
THE X-MEN, AND
HER MOTHER,
WANDA MAXIMOFF,
THE SCARLET WITCH
OF THE AVENGERS...

...IT'S IN
HER
BLOOD.



THING IS, IN ALL HER DREAMS, ALL HER WILDEST FANTASIES...

... SHE NEVER IMAGINED HERSELF AMONG THE CASUALTIES.



ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE NEVER IMAGINED BEING PLUCKED FROM HOME...

AND DRAFTED INTO A TEAM OF HEROES, HANDED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROTECTING THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF ALL THE WORLDS AND DIMENSIONS OF TIME ITSELF.



SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH ONE OF HER TEAMMATES.



ONLY TO LEARN THE HARD WAY THAT VICTORY SOMETIMES CAME AT A TERRIBLE PRICE.

IN TIME, IT
BECAME
HER TURN
TO MOVE
ON.



SHE DIDN'T GO
HOME, THOUGH--
PART OF HER
WONDERING IF
SHE EVER WOULD.

HER NEW HOME IS
OFFICIALLY LISTED
AS EARTH 616.

IT EVEN HAS A
NIGHTCRAWLER--
WHO ISN'T MARRIED
TO THE SCARLET
WITCH, BUT IN
EVERY OTHER WAY
THAT MATTERS IS
A PERFECT MATCH
FOR HER FATHER.



AND THE LONGER SHE
STAYED, THE MORE SHE
BEGAN TO WONDER IF
HER PLACEMENT HERE
WAS NO ACCIDENT.

BUT THOSE WERE ALL
THOUGHTS FROM
ANOTHER TIME.

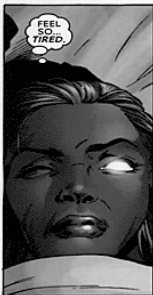
RIGHT NOW, THERE
ISN'T MUCH GOING ON
INSIDE HER HEAD.

HER HEART IS BEATING,
HER LUNGS ARE RISING
AND FALLING, JUST LIKE
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO.

SHE'S SLEEPING,
QUITE SOUNDLY.

SHE'S STILL
ALIVE.









BE CALM,
TALIA. HOLD ONTO
YOURSELF, YOU'LL
BE OKAY.

DEEP
BREATH,
TAKE THIS
AT A WALK,
FIGURE IT
OUT.



TALIA!

GOOD
TO SEE YOU
AWAKE,
GIRL.

I BROUGHT
SOME FRIENDS
WITH ME...

...WHO ARE
HAPPY AS
CAN BE TO SEE
YOU GETTING
BETTER.



I CAN
THINK, WHY
CAN'T I TALK?
WHY WON'T
THE WORDS
COME OUT
RIGHT?

I KNOW
THOSE
PEOPLE.
THE LADY'S
RIGHT.
THEY'RE ALL
MY FRIENDS,
MY TEAM-
MATES--

--SO WHY
CAN'T I
REMEMBER
THEIR
NAMES?!

TO BE CONTINUED IN TWO WEEKS
FALLEN FRIEND
PART 2

new EXCALIBUR

Well, hello there, NEW EXCALIBUR fans! Welcome back to the NEW EXCALIBUR fan page. Before we go any further, we here in the X-Office would like to give a special thanks to Frank Tieri. Frank came in to help us out and knocked it out of the park with seven really great issues. Thanks, Frank!

Now, please welcome back Chris Claremont, who has returned to the book he started, and we couldn't

be happier to have him back. Chris has got some shocking stuff planned, including events that will truly test every member of New Excalibur.

It's going to be a great year, and we're glad to have you with us. And in case you just can't wait until the next issue, on sale February 28th (just two weeks away!), enjoy this preview art!



NEXT ISSUE:



Salazar
REDA

NOCTURNE'S JOURNEY

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